

Remarks/Arguments:

In response to the action dated June 2, 2006, requiring clarification regarding claims 15, 17 and 29 as creating ambiguity because they appear to read on the non elected species illustrated in figures 7a-7b or 18a-18b applicants submit the following remarks and request reconsideration and allowance.

In the June 2, communication the Examiner states that independent claim 15 in the amendment filed on 3/13/06 now appears to be the non elected species of Fig. 7a-7b and/or 18a-18b which are the only illustrations supporting the claimed step of stopping the lateral cutting of the web and cutting transversely to the conveyance direction of the web, hereinafter "step vi". Because Applicants have failed to clarify that this claim reads on the elected species rather than the non elected species, an ambiguity has been created that needs clarification.

Following the request for restriction and election applicants cancelled all apparatus claims and elected method claims 15 and 17 which encompassed figures 10a-12b and 16a-b. Original claim 15 step vi read "cutting the central portion transversely to the conveyance direction." It is assumed that the transverse cutting of the web does not cause any ambiguity as to the elected species. What was ambiguous in original claim 15 was how the transverse cutting of the web resulted in the web being entrained in the processing line. What was not included in step vi was the fact that blades 2a and 2b, the blades that did the lateral cutting were now diverted to cut transversely. The current language of claim 15 clarified this point.

Applicants understand that the only issue at this stage of the proceedings is whether the claimed step vi of stopping the lateral cutting and cutting the central portion of the web is described in the specification in connection with the elected embodiment of the invention illustrated in the elected figures 10a-12b and 16a-b.

The specification describes two different machine embodiments based on the way the lateral leads are picked up and directed to the processing line. The different embodiments relate to the channel arrangements and lead pick up method.

Elected claims 15 and 17 claim the operation of the "second embodiment" described in the specification beginning with page 13. Method claims do not require illustrating figures to the extent that the specification provides sufficient description to support the claimed steps.

The embodiment of figures 10a-12b is part of the description of the second, best embodiment, described in the specification beginning on page 13, line 5. The claimed steps are described in two ways. One is by reference to certain apparatus status illustrations, the second with reference to a timed sequence of operational steps.

The operation of the embodiment that includes the apparatus depicted in figures 10-12, (page 15 first paragraph) begins at the bottom of page 13. The step in question, step vi, is found in the specification, page 15 last paragraph, where it is described both with reference to figures 17a-b and with reference to the time sequence $t_0, t_1, \dots t_{4a}, t_{4b}, t_5$ of the claimed steps. The paragraph reads:

"At a moment t_5-t_{4a}/t_{4b} , as can be seen from figs 17a and 17b, the blade 2b starts moving along line E in the plane of the web towards blade 2a, thus creating a movement of the blades towards each other, thereby cutting the central portion 1c transversely. The blade 2b is caused to move transversely to the web conveyance direction at a time where both edge channels are open. The open state is of course required for allowing the central part of the film to be fed into the winding unit."

As is clear from the above paragraph, the claimed step requiring a change in the operation of the blades 2b from lateral to transverse cutting is given both with a parenthetical reference to an illustrated embodiment, and more precisely with reference to a time sequence of events independent of the illustration. Different possibilities exist for the performance of this step as mentioned in the specification. See page 16, beginning with line 35 which reads that: *"The moving of the blade 2a (2b), for transverse cutting of the central portion, may be commanded by the activation of selected units of the apparatus (Shears 3a, 3b; detection of the secured feeding of said edges into the pulling device; opening of the lids of the channels; retraction of the channels), optionally after a set time-period, preferably at such time immediately before the processing line is in production mode."* These are generic descriptions

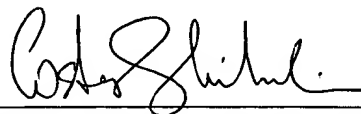
relating to the time sequence and unrelated to any figures, therefore applicable to the elected embodiment.

The balance of the language in this step of the method claim, "*whereby said edge portion(s) entrain said central portion through said channel(s) into the processing line.*", is a "whereby" clause that simply states for clarity sake the necessary result of performing the action of "*stopping said lateral cutting of said at least one edge and cutting the central portion transversely to the conveyance direction*". No particular support for this is needed

In conclusion, because the specification describes step *vi* in terms that are not exclusive to the embodiment depicted in fig. 7a-b and/or 18a-b but are fully describe in terms independent of such figures and are applicable to the embodiment of figures 10a-12b, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicants again request that claims 16, and 18-24 be rejoined and also allowed, following allowance of claims 15, 17 and 29.

Respectfully submitted,



Costas S. Krikelis, Reg. No. 28,028
Attorney for Applicant

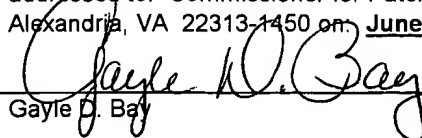
CSK/gdb

Dated: June 30, 2006

P.O. Box 1596
Wilmington, DE 19899
(302) 778-2500

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: June 30, 2006:


Gayle D. Bay